

16 Bayberry Hill Road
Ridgefield, CT 06877
Re SB 738 Creation of Regional School Districts
Thursday 2/28/2019

Dear Members of the Education Committee,
Thank you for your time service to our residents and especially our public school children.

I have reviewed SB 738, and I am opposed to this legislation as I feel it is incomplete.

- The Size of district may have no bearing on efficiency.
- What is the educational benefit to students?
- This legislation is void of rationale for its enactment – what is the need for regionalization?
- The accountability of local school boards to their citizens will be reduced if there is a forced consolidation.
- It has not been proven that Regionalization will provide cost containment for certified salaries, one of the most important cost drivers for each district.
- Some purchases are unique to each district depending upon the unique needs of students in that district. Regionalization would not help in that regard.

If districts can work together to purchase services and commodities, there may be economies of scale and this could be beneficial to students. The legal constraints and obstacles that have arisen from prior legislation need to be eliminated to allow mutual benefit via cooperation. This portion of the proposal I could support.

I urge you to reject this bill as it is as it will not further the aims of the public education system and currently it is causing a huge amount of anxiety in school districts.

Sincerely,

Carina Drake